AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): An electronic image pickup apparatus housed in an apparatus body, comprising:

a taking lens unit including a plurality of lenses;

an image pickup device for effecting photoelectric conversion of an object light after passing through the taking lens unit; and

recording means for recording image pickup signal obtained by effecting photoelectric conversion at the image pickup device;

said taking lens unit comprising between the lenses optical axis alteration means for altering the direction of image pickup optical axis, wherein said taking lens unit is disposed in front on the object side of an image display section for displaying an image located on a back surface of an apparatus body;

said electronic image pickup apparatus further comprising a main board mounting a main CPU; and an electronic circuit board mounting a circuit for processing image pickup signal of said image pickup device, wherein said electronic circuit board is located separately from said main board between said image pickup device and a bottom surface of the apparatus body such that the electronic circuit board does not physically contact the main board, wherein said image pickup device is disposed in the vicinity of the bottom surface of the apparatus body;

said electronic circuit board being disposed vertically to an image pickup optical axis bent by said optical axis alteration means, wherein said main board is disposed in parallel to said bent image pickup optical axis.

2. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for adjusting quantity of light, mechanically adjusting the quantity of light passing through the taking lens unit and provided between the optical axis alteration means located within said taking lens unit and the image pickup device.

3-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for cutting unwanted external light in the vicinity of part of said taking lens unit upon which an object light is incident.

10. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a part of said means for cutting unwanted external light comprises an end edge portion of a taking lens protection cover disposed in front of said taking lens unit and provided as displaceable between a position for concealing the taking lens unit and a position for opening the same.

11. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for cutting unwanted external light is integrally formed as a protrusion on an external enclosure portion of the apparatus body.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an image pickup device displacing mechanism for displacing said image pickup device along the axis of light incident upon the image pickup surface.

14. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means comprises a reflecting mirror having IR cut film vapor-deposited thereon.

15. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means comprises a beam splitter for splitting an incident light into a plurality of components, rays of light reflected at a semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter entering the image pickup device and rays of light after passing through the semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter entering an optical finder for visually recognizing an object.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means is movable between a first position for altering direction of an object light to cause an incidence thereof upon the image pickup device and a second position retracting itself from the path of rays of the incident light to allow entering of the object light into an optical finder for visually recognizing the object.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a lens displacing mechanism for displacing lenses in the direction of the optical axis thereof between the optical axis alteration means located within said taking lens unit and the image pickup device.

20. (Previously Presented): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 19 further comprising a driving source for driving said lens displacing mechanism disposed on a lateral side of the taking lens unit.